

## RAID100 Northern Rivers 2022 RACE REPORT

### Team 14 Rewild Turbo Moxie Tigers

Well!!! That was freakin AWESOME! [Rogue Adventure](#) Raid 100 adventure race done and dusted. So much to say but I'll keep it snappy. 1st things 1st - We finished and we're all still alive.



#### Hrs 0 - 24

The race started on Pippy beach in Yamba with a short 3km rocky hoppy around the coast to our waiting kayaks, we then ventured into the maze of canals and waterways, A broken rudder (problem #1) on my kayak made for some interesting tidal crossings and funky turns. Over to Iluka for a quick 12km coastering trek, then back onto my now repaired kayak for an 18km upstream paddle into the outgoing tide with a head wind (yay!) Glad that was over and looking forward to a warm change of clothes only to realise we stuffed up with the logistics and our box with warm gear was not in that transition (problem #2) Oh well! Onto the Mtn bikes for a 65km ride, smashed the 1st 30km out in a little over 1.5hrs then we hit the sloppy shity slop, 1 hr later we'd moved another 4km 😓 Finally at 2 am we rolled into transition with 1 hr to pack the bikes up into boxes and get fed and changed for a 3am bus transfer to Washpool NP. Sleep on the 2.5hr bus ride sounds idyllic but my mind tells me you can go shove that idea up ya arse, that's not happening 🤔





#### Hrs 24 -54

Lovely day for a stroll through amazing granite country of Washpool NP. Problem (#3) was I'd been the sickest I've ever been for a week leading into the event and had run out of adrenaline to keep me going [#notcovid](#)? Struggle? Hell yeah! But one foot went in front of the other and 8hrs later we walked into the transition. Thanks to [Azza](#) for carrying my pack for the last 5k or so 🙏 It was easy to forget how hard the trek had been because I was now focused on the 120km mountain bike ride that was the next wee little challenge 😊



Off into the night we ride, mud, hills and shit tracks soon led on to some half decent dirt roads that took us onto a 10km fear inducing decent from heaven into the Mann River nature reserve. Time for a quick feed and finally some sleeeep. 3 hrs later, time to wake up



Back on the bike for the remaining 80km through Dalmorton down to the Nymboida river for the start of the packraft section. My son's middle name is River, named after this very river that I was guiding on when he was born. Azza and [Laura Newton](#) did a quick abseil to get some bonus points for the team while [Glen Harris](#) tackled the tree climb for extra points.



#### Hrs 54-74

44km of whitewater packrafting on the Nymboida started off fun through the 1st few rapids, after those things rapidly (haha) went to shit. I got knocked out of the raft by a low hanging branch but miraculously manage to land back in the boat somehow 🧑 Azza and Laura hit the same tree but weren't so lucky, both thrown into the water (and tree). Their raft instantly became a taco, wrapped around the tree with the full force of the current pinning it there (problem # 4) I frantically collect their gear before it floats away (problem #5) then go to attempt to recover their boat. Holy Shit! That's going nowhere. Is this the end of the race for us? We can't continue with only 1 boat. Finally, we manage to reach the inflation valve and deflate the boat, hallelujah it moved a tiny bit. After 30mins we had the boat off the tree. Time to pump it up and get moving. We needed to reach the midway checkpoint before dark.

Off we go into the next rapid. Well bugger me sideways, there is another wrapped boat and a shell-shocked looking member from team [BMX Bandits](#) (problem #6) Unable to paddle past and ignore their predicament we spent another 30 mins offering safety cover and assistance, finally the boat gets free and we recover it allowing them to continue in the race.





A race against the clock saw us paddling like mother f#\$%ers to beat the dark zone (paddling is prohibited in the dark) Next rapid Azza's paddle snapped in half (problem #7) Shit! Being the only team member with single blade paddle experience I get the privilege of using the broken paddle for the final push to the mid-way transition area. We arrive in fading light to much relief.





After some food and rest (and hot VEGAN sausages thanks to the legendary Neil Tahi) we set off into the night for a trek to collect as many checkpoints as possible in 4 hrs. Turns out we only got 2 because it took 2 fricken hrs to walk up bullshit-hill. Back down that glorious hill to some much-revered sleep. 5 blissful hours later we get up with some trepidation at what lies ahead, another 22km of packrafting with all the biggest rapids and higher water volume (eek). Whispers of the carnage endured the previous day are rife, we hear rumours of possible transfers for teams who don't want to commit to the 2nd half of the paddle. Is this the safer option for us? (problem #8) Life is good and I'm not ready for it to end yet. Humming and haring for an hour and a half we decided to commit to the paddle and micro manage the risks as we encounter them.

Out of the fog paddle the [Tri Adventure](#) girls team, Cass, Ali, Amie and Eibhlin. After a quick convo we decide to paddle together to increase safety (and as it turns out, FUN) Off we go on what was to become the highlight of the race for me, 22km of incident free (apart from couple of unplanned swims for some) rolling whitewater, boat size standing waves and huge smiles of contentment as we ticked off each rapid. We paddled into Jackadgery with squeals of delight and relief.

Dumping our gear, we move faster than we had all week, straight to the first shop we'd been past, Yeah! Hot chips , burgers, pluto pups, scallops, spinach rolls all devoured in a matter of minutes.



## Hrs 75 – 100

Back on the bike for a big climb for a few k's then on foot again to get as many checkpoints as possible in the time frame we allocated. No shortage of saturated swampy crap on this leg. I suffer from intense Prickly heat in my back (problem # 9) So move my backpack to the

front for relief. Back on the bikes at midnight for the to the last bike to transition. Crap! (problem # 10) rear brake failure on the huge muddy decent, no brakes to begin with then once down brakes jammed half on (problem #11) Oh well, the quads will love me for it. On we ride, Laura's front tyre blows out (problem #12). Fix that and off we go, the final slog into the last transition. Pack the bikes up then manage to get 2 hours sleep 3am – 5am.

The final stage, A 48km kayak down the mighty Clarence River, hmm I've never paddled more than half that distance in one go before, this I'll be interesting. The 1st 10km was sweet, nice fast current to push us along, the last 38km was a big long slog. Stroke after stroke eventually got us to the final destination. The finish line. Faaark Yeah!!

So, we not only survived, we came through unscathed, somewhat tired but unbruised. Bloody happy and content with how we raced. It was the 1st time any of us had done and expedition race of this length. We had a plan that we stuck to and it worked with almost military like precision.

Thanks to all the volly's out there enduring their own version of sleep deprivation and to race director [Liam St Pierre](#) from [Rogue Adventure](#) for executing an amazing event. Also thanks to [Trevor Mullens](#) from [Tiger Adventure](#) for helping get me to my 1st Adventure race 1 yr ago. I'll be back. Next stop [GODZone Adventure](#) 2023, Fiordland NZ in 292 days.